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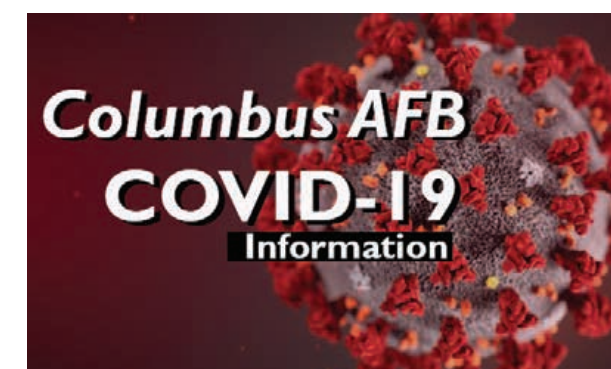
SILVER WINGS

"Train World Class Pilots"

Columbus Air Force Base, Miss.

Vol. 46, Issue 4

February 18, 2022



COVID-19 General Info

The base is continually focusing to stop the spread of the COVID-19 virus and will persistently prioritize the safety of the Airmen, families and communities of Columbus.

Off-limit areas include any business or establishment that does not comply with Federal, State, and local COVID requirements. See Pg. 2 for more COVID-19 info.

Social Gathering Limitations

- Kaye – 92 person limit
- Event Center/Club – 145 person limit
- Phillips Auditorium – 22 person limit
- Walker Center – 112 person limit



U.S. Air Force photo by Melissa Duncan-Doublin
Graduates from Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training class 22-05 sit at the graduation ceremony in the Kaye Auditorium Feb 4, 2022, on Columbus Air Force Base, Miss. Paralleling their flying training, students also need to complete around 400 hours of flight-related classroom instruction.

Achievement unlocked; SUPT class 22-05 graduates

Senior Airman Jake Jacobsen
14th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs

In 1969 Columbus Air Force Base returned to Air Training Command (now known as the Air Education and Training

Command) and resumed its original mission of training world class pilots. Since 1972, the host organization of the base has been the 14th Flying Training Wing.

See GRADUATION, Page 3

CHECK OUT COLUMBUS AFB ON SOCIAL MEDIA



Columbus AFB YouTube page



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COVID-19

Coronavirus Disease 2019

Military hospital support to FEMA will begin in Massachusetts, then expand

DOD News

At the request of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, about 90 military medical personnel — including doctors, nurses, and respiratory therapists — are continuing to deploy in six teams to three states to support civilian health care workers treating COVID-19 patients. “U.S. Army North’s priority remains defense of the homeland, which includes the ongoing, whole-of-government fight against the COVID-19 pandemic,” Army Lt. Gen. John R. Evans Jr., Army North commander, said. “It is a team effort — the Department of Defense is one of many federal agencies providing assistance — and I am thankful and proud of our service members’ role in this endeavor.”

The Defense Department support is beginning in Massachusetts and expanding to Arizona and Maine.

In Massachusetts, one 15-person team from the Air Force will support Signature Healthcare Brockton Hospital in Brockton, while another 15-person Air Force team will support Lawrence General Hospital in Lawrence.

In Arizona, one 15-person team from the Navy will support Canyon Vista Medical Center in Sierra Vista, while another 15-person Navy team will support Valleywise Health Medical Center in Phoenix. These teams join a team supporting a hospital in Yuma.

In Maine, two 15-person teams from the Air Force will support Northern Light Eastern Maine Medical Center in Bangor. These teams join a team supporting a hospital in Lewiston.

In addition, the joint DOD effort currently or will soon include 30 teams working in 18 states: one in California, three in Connecticut, one in Indiana, two in Louisiana, one in Maryland, three in Michigan, one in Minnesota, one in Missouri, one in New Hampshire, one in New Jersey, one in New Mexico, five in New York,



Air Force Capt. Melinda Stevens, a registered nurse assigned to the 60th Inpatient Squadron, Travis Air Force Base, Calif., checks a patient's IV fluids while shadowing civilian hospital counterparts at St. Francis Medical Center, Monroe, La., Feb. 8, 2022. The Air Force medical team, working side-by-side with civilian medical professionals, is deployed in support of continued Defense Department COVID-19 response operations to help communities in need.

two in Ohio, two in Oklahoma, two in Pennsylvania, one in Rhode Island, one in Texas, one in Wisconsin, and one in the Navajo Nation.

Army North, under U.S. Northern Command’s oversight, provides operational command of the teams.

On Dec. 30, 2021, the secretary of defense approved the activation of 1,000 military medical personnel to support the federal government’s COVID-19 response. Five hundred of the 1,000 were

made available to support requests for federal support on Jan. 15, 2022. The other 500 became available at the end of the month.

These 1,000 personnel join about 400 other military medical personnel, previously activated to assist civilian hospitals.

All but about 15 of the personnel announced today are from the recently assigned additional forces. In total, more than 570 of the 1,000 additional forces are supporting, or will soon support, hospitals.

Silver Wings

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Submission Deadline

The deadline for submitting copy for next week’s SILVER WINGS is noon Monday. Articles may be dropped off at the public affairs office or e-mailed.

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Submit all advertising to the Columbus, Miss., Commercial Dispatch advertising department one week prior to desired publication date. The advertising department can be reached at (662) 328-2424.

Air Force Readiness Programs

(Editor’s note: All activities are offered at the Airman & Family Readiness Center unless otherwise specified. For more information about any of the activities listed, call 434-2790.)

“Please note events are subject to change due to COVID-19, so please contact A&FRC to confirm all events”

Wing Newcomers Orientation

The next Wing Newcomers Orientation will be held on Mar. 1 from 8 a.m.-12:30 p.m. in the Columbus Club. This event is mandatory for all newly arrived military and DoD civilian personnel. The event’s foundation is the base’s mobile App, so if you are registered, please locate and download the Columbus Air Force Base App from the App Store prior to attending. Pre-registration is required, so please contact your unit CSS to be registered. For more information, please call the A&FRC Relocation Manager at (662) 434-2701/2790.

Federal USA Jobs Workshop

The next Federal USA Jobs workshop is from 9-10:30 a.m. Mar. 2. This is a workshop on writing resumes, applications, and job search using the USAJobs website. To register or for more information, please call A&FRC at (662) 434-2790.

Transition Assistance Program Workshop

The next Transition Assistance Program (TAP) workshop is from 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Mar. 7-11 and includes seminars on: Transition, Military Occupational Code Crosswalk, Financial Planning, Health Benefits, Mississippi Department of Employment Security, Department of Veterans Affairs, Disabled TAP and Department of Labor. Preseparation counseling is required before attending, and recommended attendance is 12-24 months prior to separation/retirement. Spouses are encouraged to attend with their sponsor. To register or for more information, please call the TAP Manager at (662) 434-2631/2790.

Smooth Move Relocation Workshop

The next Smooth Move is from 10-11 a.m. Mar. 17 in the A&FRC. This workshop is highly recommended for first-time and over-seas relocating members. Get the very latest moving information straight from base-wide relocation assistance agencies. Learn what to expect before you move with information from Tri-Care, Housing, Military Pay, TMO, Medical Records and A&FRC. Be sure to ask any relocating questions you may have during this event. Pre-registration is required, so call A&FRC at (662) 434-2790 to register or for more information.

Department of Labor Transition Vocational Track Workshop

The next DoL Transition Vocational Track

Workshop is from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Mar. 21-22 and will be held in the A&FRC. This workshop helps members identify skills, increase awareness of training and credentialing programs, and develop an action plan to achieve career goals. To register or for more information, please call A&FRC at (662) 434-2790.

Bundles for Babies

The next “Zoom” Bundles for Babies workshop is from 1-3:30 p.m. Mar. 29. This program is designed for active duty AF members and/or their spouses who are pregnant or have a child 4 months old or less. Attendees will learn about finances, labor and delivery, and infant care. A \$50 gift card sponsored by the Air Force Aid Society will be provided for each qualifying child. To register or for more information, please call A&FRC at (662) 434-2790.

Heart Link

The next “Zoom” Heart Link / Spouse Welcome is from 8:30 a.m.-noon Apr. 28. This half-day program is open to all spouses of active duty military members assigned to Columbus AFB. Attendees will receive information about life in the Air Force, in the local area and at Columbus AFB from local subject matter experts including spouse leaders. To register or for more information, please call A&FRC at (662) 434-2790.

Entrepreneurship Track Transition Workshop

The next Entrepreneurship Track Transition workshop will be held June 9-10 from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. This workshop is conducted by the Small Business Administration for veterans and all base personnel interested starting up and operating their own business. To register or for more information, please call A&FRC at (662) 434-2790.

EFMP-FS

Exceptional Family Members Program-Family Support, EFMP-FS, establishes, implements and maintains the FS (community support) entity of the Air Force EFMP in coordination with the Medical & Assignments components by enhancing the quality of life of special needs family members. Feel free to contact (662) 434-3323/2790 for any questions related to EFMP or for one-on-one assistance. We can assess your needs and make the proper community referral for you and your family!

Volunteer Opportunities

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact the A&FRC. We have volunteer opportunities located across the base for one-time events, special events or on a continual basis. Volunteers are needed on base at the Youth Center, Child Development Center, Library, Medical Clinic, Chapel, Airman’s Attic, Thrift Store, the Retiree Activities Office and many other locations. For more information, please call A&FRC at (662) 434-2790.

Installation Voting Assistance Office

A&FRC houses the Voting Assistance Office

(VAO) which is open Monday-Friday, 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. and closed weekends/holidays. The VAO offers voting assistance including voter registration, absentee ballot requests and voting, change of address, and provides answers for other general voting questions to uniformed service members, their family members and civilians with access to A&FRC. Assistance includes but is not limited to aid in preparing and submitting Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) SF-76, Federal Write-in Absentee Ballot (FWAB) SF-186 and National Mail Voter Registration Form (NVRF). The VAO also leads and trains all installation unit voting assistance officers. For more information, please contact the Installation VAO at (662) 434-2701/2790 or e-mail: vote.columbus@us.af.mil.

Discovery Resource Center

The Columbus A&FRC has computers with internet access available for job searches, assessments, resumes, cover letters, state and federal applications and companies’ employment information. A printer and fax machine is available. A lending library of books, DVDs and periodicals on transition and EFMP topics are available for check out. These resources are available on a first-come-first-serve basis.

Pre- and Post-Deployment Tour Briefing

These briefings are mandatory for active duty personnel who are either deploying or returning from deployment or a remote tour. Please contact A&FRC at (662) 434-2794/2790 to schedule a briefing and/or for more information.

Pre-Separation Counseling

This counseling is a mandatory briefing for personnel separating or retiring, and is to be completed at least 90 days prior to separation. It may be completed up to 12 months prior to separation or 24 months prior to retirement. Please contact A&FRC at (662) 434-2790 to schedule a counseling session and/or for more information.

Employment Workshop

An employment workshop on local and base employment opportunities is held every Wednesday, 1-2 p.m. This program provides military families and DoD civilian members individual assessment and career counseling to assist with local employment, preparation for future endeavors via education, job search, or self-owned business objectives in the local area. For more information, please call A&FRC at (662) 434-2790.

Survivor Benefit Plan

Are you nearing military retirement? The one decision you will need to make before you retire involves participation in the Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP). As with all good decision-making, you need to know the facts before you can make a sound decision. Always get the true facts about SBP before making up your mind. Additional details are available by calling your SBP Counselor Mary Chambers at (662) 434-2720/2790.

Personal Financial Readiness

Need help with financial matters? Want to make the most of your money? The Personal Financial Counselor (PFC) can help you and your family: manage finances, resolve financial problems and reach long-term goals such as education, buying a home and planning for retirement. PFC services are at no cost, private and confidential. Please contact the PFC at (662) 998-0411.

Key Spouse Program (KSP)

The mission of KSP is to provide information and resources to military spouses, supporting families in successfully navigating through the military life cycle. The KSP is a CC’s program. The CC establishes and maintains the program within the unit, to include choosing team members. Once selected as a KS in writing, you will need to attend initial/refresher KS training and continuing education. For more information, please call (662) 434-2839.

Military and Family Life Counselor Program

Military and Family Life Counselors (MFLCs) provide non-medical counseling to help Airmen (single and married), spouses and other family members cope with stressful situations created by deployments, reintegration and life challenges such as martial issues, parenting, career stress and anger. All counselors are licensed mental health providers, and they can meet either on or off base. There is no charge for services, and appointments can usually be made within one to two days. To contact the MFLC, please call (662) 435-1110.

Sponsorship Training

An electronic version of sponsorship training called eSponsorship Application & Training (eSAT) is the required training course to become a sponsor. It can be found in Military One Source’s MilLife Learning training Course Catalog at this link <https://millelearning.militaryonesource.mil/MOS/f?p=SIS:2:0:More online resources are available on Columbus AFB Living at https://www.columbusafbiving.com/airmen-family-readiness-center/relocation-assistance/electronic-sponsor-resources/>. For additional information, please contact the A&FRC Relocation Manager at (662) 434-2701/2790.

Chapel Schedule

Chapel services are now available.

Catholic: 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. on Sundays

Daily Mass: 11 a.m. Tuesday- Friday

Protestant: 9:30 a.m. on Sundays

As we gather for services there is a 50 person limit inside the chapel. Thank you all for your help during this time and we are looking forward to seeing you all soon!



Maj. Jason “Flack” Markzon, United States Air Force Air Demonstration Squadron “Thunderbirds” Advance Pilot and Narrator, prepares to take off for a familiarization flight with IndyCar driver, Ed Carpenter, in Indianapolis, Indiana, Aug. 20, 2020. Carpenter flew with the team before racing the Space Force IndyCar in the 104th Indy 500.

From Then to Now: A History of Airshows

14th Flying Training Wing
Public Affairs

The “Wings Over Columbus” Air Show and STEM Expo is quickly approaching. There are several world-class performers, aircraft displays, and educational activities to take in during the event weekend on 26-27 March 2022. This year, the United States Air Force celebrates 75 years of breaking barriers, advancements in aviation technology and projection of global air power. However, the air shows of today wouldn’t exist without the long, rich aviation history that can be traced back to the beginnings of flight.

track in Rheims, France. The week-long spectacle is considered to be the first international aviation meeting, which drew aviators from all over the world to compete for prizes in aviation-related challenges. Many famous early pilots participated and the event was a success, drawing thousands of spectators and new aviation fans that camped in tents to watch.

After World War I, pilots began performing at travelling air shows. These events were used to advance the field of aviation by providing a means to inspire and educate the next generation of future aviators. Travelling air shows, also called circuses, were small and traveled from town to town and usually coincided with a “Victory Loan” or “War Bonds” rally. In addition to the education, See AIRSHOW, Page 5



The U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds perform aerial acts during the Wings Over Columbus 2014 Open House and Airshow at Columbus Air Force Base, Miss., April 6, 2014. Although the open house was cut short due to bad weather, all aerial performers completed their acts.

BLAZE Hangar Tails: F-16 Fighting Falcon

Mission

The F-16 Fighting Falcon is a compact, multi-role fighter aircraft. It is highly maneuverable and has proven itself in air-to-air combat and air-to-surface attack. It provides a relatively low-cost, high-performance weapon system for the United States and allied nations.

Features

In an air combat role, the F-16’s maneuverability and combat radius (distance it can fly to enter air combat, stay, fight and return) exceed that of all potential threat fighter aircraft. It can locate targets in all weather conditions and detect low flying aircraft in radar ground clutter. In an air-to-surface role, the F-16 can fly more than 500 miles, deliver its weapons with superior accuracy, defend itself against enemy aircraft, and return to its starting point. An all-weather capability allows it to accurately deliver ordnance during non-visual bombing conditions. In designing the F-16, advanced aerospace science and proven reliable systems from other aircraft such as the F-15 and F-111 were selected. These were combined to simplify the airplane and reduce its size, purchase price, maintenance costs and weight. The light weight of the fuselage is achieved without reducing its strength. With a full load of internal fuel, the F-16 can withstand up to nine G’s — nine times the force of gravity — which exceeds the capability of

other current fighter aircraft.

The cockpit and its bubble canopy give the pilot unobstructed forward and upward vision, and greatly improved vision over the side and to the rear. The seat-back angle was expanded from the usual 13 degrees to 30 degrees, increasing pilot comfort and gravity force tolerance. The pilot has excellent flight control of the F-16 through its “fly-by-wire” system. Electrical wires relay commands, replacing the usual cables and linkage controls. For easy and accurate control of the aircraft during high G-force combat maneuvers, a side stick controller is used instead of the conventional center-mounted stick. Hand pressure on the side stick controller sends electrical signals to actuators of flight control surfaces such as ailerons and rudder. Avionics systems include a highly accurate inertial navigation system in which a computer provides steering information to the pilot. The plane has UHF and VHF radios plus an instrument landing system. It also has a warning system and modular countermeasure pods to be used against airborne or surface electronic threats. The fuselage has space for additional avionics systems.

General Characteristics

Primary Function: Multirole fighter
Contractor: Lockheed Martin Corp.
Power Plant: F-16C/D: one Pratt and Whitney F100-

PW-200/220/229 or General Electric F110-GE-100/129
Thrust: F-16C/D, 27,000 pounds
Wingspan: 32 feet, 8 inches
Length: 49 feet, 5 inches
Height: 16 feet
Weight: 19,700 pounds without fuel
Maximum Takeoff Weight: 37,500 pounds
Fuel Capacity: 7,000 pounds internal; typical capacity, 12,000 pounds with two external tanks
Payload: Two 2,000-pound bombs, two AIM-9 and 1,040-gallon external tanks
Speed: 1,500 mph (Mach 2 at altitude)
Range: More than 2,002 miles ferry range (1,740 nautical miles)
Ceiling: Above 50,000 feet
Armament: One M-61A1 20mm multibarrel cannon with 500 rounds; external stations can carry up to six air-to-air missiles, conventional air-to-air and air-to-surface munitions and electronic countermeasure pods
Crew: F-16C, one; F-16D, one or two
Unit cost: F-16A/B , \$14.6 million (fiscal 98 constant dollars); F-16C/D,\$18.8 million (fiscal 98 constant dollars)
Initial operating capability: F-16A, January 1979; F-16C/D Block 25-32, 1981; F-16C/D Block 40-42, 1989; and F-16C/D Block 50-52, 1994.
Inventory: Total force, F-16C/D, 1,280



An F-16 Fighting Falcon from the 309th Fighter Squadron, Luke Air Force Base, Ariz., taxis to the runway during Green Flag-West 14-09 Aug. 21, 2014, at Nellis AFB, Nev. Green Flag exercises give visiting units the opportunity to train in air-to-ground combat operations. Many of the training exercise scenarios call for providing air support to ground troops who are participating in ground combat exercises.



A U.S. Air Force F-16 Fighting Falcon fighter aircraft assigned to the 36th Fighter Squadron (FS) launches June 11, 2012, during Red Flag-Alaska 12-2 at Eielson Air Force Base, Alaska. The F-16 is a compact, highly maneuverable fighter aircraft, vastly proven in air-to-air combat and air-to-surface attack. The 36th FS is out of Osan Air Base, South Korea.

Visit www.columbus.af.mil to learn about Columbus AFB agencies and other important information.

AFRL holds directed, kinetic energy wargaming experiment

By Jeanne Dailey
Air Force Research Laboratory

KIRTLAND AIR FORCE BASE, N.M. — The Air Force Research Laboratory's Directed Energy Directorate recently hosted a collaborative wargame with its sister AFRL unit, the Munitions Directorate, at Kirtland Air Force Base. The Directed Energy and Kinetic Energy Directed Energy Utility Concept Experiment, or DEKE DEUCE, explored synergies between directed energy and kinetic concepts in the future battlespace.

"DEKE DEUCE required extensive collaboration between dozens of scientists and engineers from both directorates over a period of more than nine months," said Dr. Darl Lewis, DEUCE lead and wargaming principal investigator. "The Office of Naval Research also collaborated extensively in the lead-up to playing their Elektra battle management concept alongside those of AFRL."

The experiment placed pilots, weapon systems officers and air battle managers in a series of virtual vignettes exploring mission sets that relate to the combined use of DE and KE systems, tying together previous studies and analysis focused on an airborne high energy laser pod and two future kinetic concepts.

Orlando de la Garza, Ross Dudley, Jeffrey MacGillivray, and Joe Aldrich observe operations and collect data during Air Force Research Laboratory's Directed Energy and Kinetic Energy Directed Energy Concept Utility Experiment (DEKE DEUCE) held at Kirtland Air Force Base, N.M. Jan. 24-28, 2022. The experiment explored synergies between directed energy and kinetic concepts in the future battlespace. (U.S. Air Force photo by Allen Winston)

"An urgent need exists to rapidly field and integrate viable next-generation weapons, both DE and KE, in response to increasing capabilities and aggressive intentions from our adversaries," Lewis said. "This DEUCE focused on identifying capability and joint integration gaps that can be addressed by systems under consideration, as well as potential future tactics and procedures."

Lewis explained that the exercise will also inform senior AFRL leaders on potential synergies between next-gen technologies, while bringing together stakeholders across the research and development, acquisition, and warfighting communities.

As in past DEUCE events, AFRL demonstrated its Weapons Engagement Optimizer (WOPR), an artificial intelligence-based battle management system designed to assist warfighter management of complex battlefields. WOPR will be used to analyze intricate data systems in real time for augmenting warfighter and senior leader decision making.

AFRL's Munitions Directorate, located at Eglin AFB, Florida, had several analysts and engineers joining the event, and discussed why this DEUCE was important to their research and development efforts.

"DEKE DEUCE gave the Munitions Directorate a great opportunity to put our kinetic weapons concepts in front of the warfighter," said Rusty Coleman, the unit's technical advisor for the modeling and simulation team. "It allowed us to see novel employment concepts that we could not have



Col. Matthew Crowell, Air Force Safety Center chief of aviation safety, and Capt. Phillip Butler, 314th Fighter Squadron, operate their virtual aircraft at Air Force Research Laboratory's Directed Energy and Kinetic Energy Directed Energy Concept Utility Experiment (DEKE DEUCE) held at Kirtland Air Force Base, N.M. Jan. 24-28, 2022. The experiment explored synergies between directed energy and kinetic concepts in the future battlespace.

seen otherwise. The pilots virtually flying the aircraft provided feedback beyond what we could have gotten from any other venue."

Dr. George Foster, distinguished engineer for combat control, from the U.S. Naval Surface Warfare Center at Dahlgren, Virginia, expanded on the cross-service collaborative aspect and benefits of DEKE DEUCE.

"Despite the differences in the uniform of our warfighters and the type of platforms they operate, we are still capable of collaboratively building systems that provide a common operational picture while preserving the unique capabilities within the Navy and Air Force," Foster said. "This event allowed the Navy to integrate the Elektra battle manager with the Air Force's WOPR during the science and technology phase of our projects, enabling us to share our ideas and lessons learned early enough to ensure we are able to integrate when our capabilities hit the fleet and the Air Force."

Capt. Scott Seidenberger, an instructor air battle manager from the 552nd Air Control Wing at Tinker AFB, Oklahoma, was participating in his third experiment.

AIRSHOW

(Continued from page 4)

tional purpose of the shows, many different types of acts began to surface, such as wing walkers and air races. In later years, air shows provided entertainment during national holidays such as Armistice Day or George Washington's birthday celebrations.

The modern air show combines the best of military and civilian aerial performers to celebrate the advancement and history of flight. Aerial performers like the United States Air Force Thunderbirds and Air Combat Command A-10C Thunderbolt II Demonstration Team, showcase the highest standards of precision and dedication to the pursuit of Excellence, a core pillar of the Air Force Core Values. Each team inspires thousands of air show guests across the country every year. Air shows carry on a century-long tradition of providing a forum for aviators, engineers and enthusiasts to meet.

"Air shows afford us the opportunity to honor our past while inspiring a new generation of Airmen to pave the way for the future," Lt. Col. Timothy Thoren, "Wings Over Columbus" air show director said. "This year we are expecting members of the 454th Bombardment Wing, who flew B-52s at Columbus in the 1950s and 1960s to attend the air show. "Wings Over Columbus" 2022 will bring the past together with the future so we can honor our heroes, learn from their achievements and prepare our Air Force to meet tomorrow's challenges."

The 14th Flying Training Wing hosts the largest training aircraft fleet while raising the bar for technological innovation to reshape the future Air Force aviator. This year, Columbus AFB aims to raise the bar again with its first large-scale STEM Expo featured at the air show. Over 30 technology and education partners have come together to exhibit advancements in virtual reality, engineering, unmanned vehicle systems, forensics, military aviation and space.

"The air show provides a unique regional recurring and public outreach opportunity for the Air Force," Thoren said. "Our local community partners have played a pivotal role in planning and hosting this air show, just as they have for decades supporting Columbus AFB and our critical mission. "Wings Over Columbus" provides a venue for Airmen and community members to celebrate our incredible success and forge bonds to advance the mission of Columbus AFB and the interests of our community."

The "Wings Over Columbus" Air Show and STEM Expo is scheduled to be held March 26 and 27, 2022 at Columbus AFB, Miss. Gates open at 10 a.m. both days. The show is open to the public with free admission and parking.

For more information visit <http://www.wocairshow.com>

March 26-27, 2022

Gates Open at 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

WINGS OVER COLUMBUS

2022 AIR SHOW

MISSISSIPPI

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CAFB raises the bar with STEM

14th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs

The 14th Flying Training Wing will host the “Wings Over Columbus” Air Show and first large scale Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics (STEM) Expo 26-27 March 2022.

The STEM Expo is the largest event of its kind held at Columbus AFB in conjunction with the air show. Over 30 STEM exhibitors in the fields of aviation, engineering, robotics, forensics, military sciences unmanned vehicles and cyber will be on display throughout the event.

“The thing that makes this event so special is actually what is going to happen on the 25th of March,” said Tech. Sgt. Javier Cruz, 14th Flying Training Wing, NCOIC Public Affairs & “Wings Over Columbus” STEM Expo coordinator. “As the STEM coordinator I saw an opportunity to take advantage of the performer practice day. I was inspired by Naval Air Station OCEANA in Virginia. They host a very large STEM day on their air show practice day and I wanted to do that here at Columbus. The STEM Expo runs all weekend but the 25th is just for the students.”

Over 540 high school and college students pre-registered to attend the student-only STEM Expo day.

“So far we have about 20 schools signed up for the student only day,” said Cruz. “It might not sound like a lot, but when I started this project I initially reached out to over 153 schools. COVID has been a major factor in preventing some schools from being able to participate.”

The STEM Expo is an unfunded air show activity and currently does not meet the requirements to receive sponsorships.

“This entire event has been made possible by the goodwill of the tech companies and industry partners surrounding us,” said Cruz. “Some of our exhibitors are coming from places like Eglin Air Force Base, Tyndall Air Force Base and Little Rock Air Force Base.”

Establishing partnerships within the local community provided solutions to unfunded STEM Expo initiatives.

"I wanted the students to feel like they are a part of a mission at the STEM Expo. I worked with a company to design a mission patch but to bring it to life I needed help," said Cruz. "During an unrelated meeting with Tech. Sgt. Brianna Murph, a local recruiter from the 331st Recruiting Squadron, she saw the patch design on my wall and next thing I know the whole 331st RCS is trying to figure out a way to get these mission patches made. Staff Sgt. Watasha McAfee, Tech. Sgt. Janyll Jasmine Smiling and Master Tech. Clayton Jackson were the MVPs and within a



Courtesy Photo

few days we were looking at a real-life proof sample of the STEM mission patch. That's when I knew we had something special."

"To some it may be just a patch, keepsake or memorabilia. To those who understand the bigger picture, it's a movement," said Staff Sgt. Watasha McAfee, 331st Recruiting Squadron, Air Force recruiter. "A movement that will inspire, empower and encourage these talented young students to carry the torch and become this great nation's next leaders."

The STEM zone will consist of two areas, an indoor hangar will house the 14th Flying Training Wing mission row where students will be able to interact with current Air Force student pilots, virtual reality 360 degree flights, flight simulators and a T-38 Talon. Additional exhibits such as BOEING, Xipiter Unmanned Aerial Systems, Mississippi State University Society of Women Engineers and Chandra X-Ray Observatory will be available. An outdoor exhibit area will provide students an opportunity to interact with Unmanned Aerial Vehicles from Mississippi State, an Explosive Ordnance Disposal Team and robot, a Quad-Legged Unmanned Ground Vehicle from the 325th Fighter Wing, Security Forces squadron, AIRBUS Helicopter, Federal Bureau of Investigation mobile forensics lab and other larger outdoor STEM exhibits.

“Train World Class Pilots,” said Cruz. “It’s a simple mission statement because the standard is no less. I brought that mindset into the planning of this event to really bring the wow factor for these students. If even just one student leaves the STEM Expo feeling inspired, then that’s mission accomplished.”



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OPERATION COPE THAW

(Continued from page 10)

This preparation involved equipment loading and palletizing training to familiarize all personnel involved.

“The whole goal of these briefings and training was really safety,” said Boje. “We want to have a set game plan so that we have mission success and make sure that all personnel get back on the ground safely while also accomplishing the



U.S. Air Force photo by Airmen Kailee Reynolds

U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Joshua Harris, Unilateral Aircrew Training rigging supervisor, ties equipment down to a C-17 to prepare for "Operation Cope Thaw" on the flight line at Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas on Feb. 1, 2022. Operation Cope Thaw involved Airmen from Laughlin Air Force Base continuing the UPT mission off-station, with learning objectives including developing Airmanship, learning to adapt to changes, and overcoming challenges within a mission while deployed.



U.S. Air Force photo by Airmen Kailee Reynolds

Airmen from Altus Air Force Base, Oklahoma, load a C-17 with aircraft equipment for "Operation Cope Thaw" on the flight line at Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas, on Feb. 1, 2022. Operation Cope Thaw involved Airmen from Laughlin Air Force Base continuing the UPT mission off-station, with learning objectives including developing Airmanship, learning to adapt to changes, and overcoming challenges within a mission while deployed.

objectives that were tasked with each individual sortie.”

An Altus C-17 touched down at Laughlin's airfield on Feb. 1 and was loaded with aircraft maintenance equipment, including auxiliary power units and spare aircraft parts prior to departing to Arizona. Airmen from Laughlin's 47th Medical Group, 47th Operation Support Squadron's Aircrew Flight Equipment and Squadron Aviation Resource Management, and the 47th Maintenance Directorate also traveled to Arizona to provide operational support.

“No one here has ever really done this before, so everyone involved is figuring out a way to make it a more successful operation in the future,” said Boje. “That way we can set an example and pave the way for other bases that might want to do something like this later on.”

Throughout the exercise, Airmen will train and learn valuable skills while continuing to conduct effective, safe and disciplined flying training operations and mission assurance activities.



U.S. Air Force photo by Airmen Kailee Reynolds

U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Matthew Burrows, 87th Flying Training Squadron commander, explained the events of Operation Cope Thaw to instructor and student pilots sitting in the Anderson Hall auditorium, at Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas, on Jan. 31, 2022. Operation Cope Thaw involved all student and instructor pilots present to fly 17 T-38's to the Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport, Arizona, to gain off-station mission experience.



U.S. Air Force photo by Airmen Kailee Reynolds

U.S. Air Force Airmen load a C-17 with supplies and aircraft equipment for "Operation Cope Thaw" at Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas on Feb. 1, 2022. Operation Cope Thaw involved Airmen from Laughlin Air Force Base continuing the UPT mission off-station, with learning objectives including developing Airmanship, learning to adapt to changes, and overcoming challenges within a mission while deployed.

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U.S. Air Force photo by Airmen Kailee Reynolds

A C-17 Globemaster III lands at the Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas airfield to be loaded with aircraft equipment to take to the Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport, Arizona for “Operation Cope Thaw” on Feb. 1, 2022. Operation Cope Thaw involved Airmen from Laughlin Air Force Base continuing the UPT mission off-station, with learning objectives including developing Airmanship, learning to adapt to changes, and overcoming challenges within a mission while deployed.

Operation Cope Thaw: a pilot’s chance to advance

47th Flying Training Wing

LAUGHLIN AIR FORCE BASE, Texas — Airmen from Laughlin Air Force Base integrated with units from the 97th Air Mobility Wing, Altus Air Force Base, Oklahoma, to begin a short-notice deployment exercise dubbed Operation Cope Thaw, which kicked off Feb. 2.

The multi-day event will provide off-station mission exposure for pilots and maintainers from Laughlin’s 47th Flying Training Wing. Eighteen of the base’s T-38C Talons were joined by a C-17 Globemaster III from Altus before the group set out for Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport, Arizona.

Operation Cope Thaw is a unique opportunity for pilots to gain knowledge and experience beyond the scope of their daily undergraduate pilot training mission. It also serves as an introduction to Agile Combat Employment concepts, which is an Air Force concept of rapidly moving and readying forces anytime and anywhere.

“Our mission is to produce the highest quality warfighting aviator that we can, and we are really trying to develop critical skills and adaptability out at the Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport,” said U.S. Air Force 1st Lt. Philip Boje, 87th Flying Training Squadron instructor pilot and Operation Cope Thaw deputy mission commander. “I think that supporting the UPT mission in a different environment is a great way to achieve that goal.”

During their time in Arizona, the instructor pilots and students will integrate UPT learning objectives including developing Airmanship, learning to adapt to changes, and overcoming challenges within a specific mission.

“This is a great opportunity for everyone involved and it’s great to see everyone’s work they have put in to have this operation come together,” said Boje. “It proves that we can go out and operate elsewhere safely and effectively, even if we have bad weather or aren’t able to complete our mission back home for whatever reason.”

Logistical coordination began several days before departure when Airmen from Altus arrived at Laughlin and began to train and prepare for the mission ahead.

See OPERATION COPE THAW, Page 11



U.S. Air Force photo by Airmen Kailee Reynolds

A C-17 Globemaster III travels up the flight line at the Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas airfield to be loaded with aircraft equipment to take to the Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport, Arizona for “Operation Cope Thaw” on Feb. 1, 2022. Operation Cope Thaw involved Airmen from Laughlin Air Force Base continuing the UPT mission off-station, with learning objectives including developing Airmanship, learning to adapt to changes, and overcoming challenges within a mission while deployed.



U.S. Air Force photo by Airmen Kailee Reynolds

Two Air Force pilots prepare for take-off to Luke Air Force Base, Arizona for “Operation Cope Thaw” from the flight line at Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas on Feb. 2, 2022. Operation Cope Thaw involved Airmen from Laughlin Air Force Base continuing the UPT mission off-station, with learning objectives including developing Airmanship, learning to adapt to changes, and overcoming challenges within a mission while deployed.

Outstanding Airmen Recognized

2nd Lt. Peyton Craven 14th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs

Team Columbus celebrated its superior performers at the first 14th Flying Training Wing combined Annual Awards and Dining Out ceremony Feb. 12, 2022.

The ceremony included the entertainment elements of a Dining Out such as “grog” bowls and the traditional “Rules of the Mess”.

Keynote speaker, U.S. Air Force Chief Master Sergeant (Ret.) Manny Piñeiro, former First Sergeant Special Duty Manager for the Air Force, spoke on the importance of leading Airmen.

“If you’re going to lead Airmen, lead with passion. The obstacles that are out there, we will confront together,” said Piñeiro.

Piñeiro served in the United States Air Force for 32 years, and was responsible for establishing guidance, policy, and management of more than 2,700 Air Force, Air National Guard, and Air Force Reserve first sergeants. Piñeiro also served as the primary advisor to the Secretary of the Air Force, Chief of Staff of the Air Force, Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force, and the First Sergeant Academy.

Piñeiro shared a piece of advice to the attendees in his closing remarks.

“Folks, all I ask, is that you take a little bit of what you’ve got here tonight and apply it to your team,” Piñeiro said.

Formal award ceremonies have long been used in the Air Force to recognize the hard work and dedication that Airmen demonstrate to achieve mission success. This year the planning team incorporated an atmosphere of levity with the inclusion of traditional Dining Out activities.

The 14th Flying Training Wing produced more pilots than any other pilot training wing in Air Education and Training Command and more pilots in 2021 than any year since 1985. This achievement led to the 14th Flying Training Wing re-

ceiving the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award. Accomplishments such as these are achievable only through the hard work and dedication provided by Airmen like those recognized during the awards ceremony.

Wing level award winners will continue on to compete at the Nineteenth Air Force level.

Chief Master Sergeant Antonio Cooper, Command Chief of the 14th Flying Training Wing, spoke on the importance of events such as the Annual Awards Dining Out.

“The intent was to bring everyone together and celebrate the accomplishments of our wingmen. I wanted this to be fun and different; I think we succeeded with that,” said Cooper.

The 2021 Annual Award Winners are:

Airman of the Year: SSgt. Jose Guillen, 14th Operations Support Squadron

Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year: TSgt. Aaron Wanzer, 14th Comptroller Squadron

Senior Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year: MSgt. Stephanie Tognotti, 14th Student Squadron

First-Sergeant of the Year: MSgt. Tiona Jones, 14th Mission Support Group

Volunteer of the Year: TSgt. Sean Weygandt, 14th FTW Maintenance Authority Quality

Honor Guardsman of the Year: SrA Aubrey Anderson, 14th Operational Medical Readiness Squadron

Company Grade Officer of the Year: Capt. Elijah Nicholson, 14th Contracting Squadron

Field Grade Officer of the Year: Maj. Katherine Murphy, 14th Healthcare Operations Squadron

Instructor Pilot of the Year: Capt. Matthew Bliley, 49th Flying Training Squadron

First Assignment Instructor Pilot of the Year: 1st Lt. Blaine Wycoff, 14th Operations Support Squadron

Civilian CAT I (Non-supervisory) of the Year: GS-06 Wendy Pennington-Nichols, 14th Healthcare Operations



U.S. Air Force photo by Elizabeth Owens

U.S. Air Force Chief Master Sgt. (Ret.) Manny Piñeiro, former First Sergeant Special Duty Manager for the United States Air Force, speaks to Annual Awards and Dining Out Attendees, Feb. 12, 2022, on Columbus Air Force Base, Miss. Piñeiro was selected as the event’s keynote speaker.

Squadron

Civilian CAT II (Non-supervisory) of the Year: GS-09 Jo Spears, 14th Flying Training Wing Protocol

Civilian CAT III (Non-supervisory) of the Year: GS-11 Aaron Lorenz, 14th Student Squadron

Civilian CAT II (Supervisory) of the Year: GS-09 Seth Maher, 14th Civil Engineering Squadron

Civilian CAT III (Supervisory) of the Year: GS-13 Richard Marra, 14th Communications Squadron

Key Spouse of the Year: Amber Thomason

Team of the Year: Base Operations Services Support Flight

Innovation Team of the Year: 14th Diagnostics & Therapeutics Flight

Congratulations to all award winners!



U.S. Air Force Photo by Second Lieutenant Peyton Craven

Attendees from the 14th Flying Training Wing listen to the Master of Ceremony, during the Annual Awards and Dining Out Ceremony, Feb. 12, 2022, on Columbus Air Force Base, Miss. Annual Awards Ceremonies are used as a way to show appreciation to base personnel for their hard work and dedication toward the mission, throughout the year.



U.S. Air Force Photo by Second Lieutenant Peyton Craven

14th Flying Training Wing personnel and their guest attend the Annual Awards and Dining Out Ceremony, Feb. 12, 2022, on Columbus Air Force Base, Miss. Due to the event being a dining out, base personnel were able to invite guest who are not military service members.

Annual Award Winners

Field-Grade Officer of the Year



Maj. Katherine M. Murphy
14th Medical Group

Company Grade Officer of the Year



Capt. Elijah N. Nicholson
14th Mission Support Group

Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year



TSgt. Aaron M. Wanzer
14th Wing Staff Agencies

Airman of the Year



SSgt. Jose A. Guillen
14th Operations Group

Team of the Year



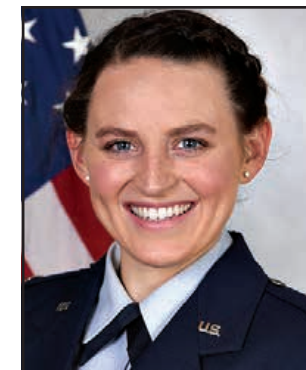
Base Operations Services Support Flight
14th Mission Support Group

Innovation Team of the Year



14th Diagnostics & Therapeutics Flight
14th Medical Group

Flight Commander of the Year



Capt. Rachel L. Burmester
14th Mission Support Group

Senior Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year



MSgt. Stephanie Tognotti
14th Operations Group

Honor Guardsman of the Year



SRa Aubrey J. Anderson
14th Medical Group

Category I (NS) Civilian of the Year



Wendy Pennington-Nichols
14th Medical Group

Category II (NS) Civilian of the Year



Billie J. Spears
14th Wing Staff Agencies

Category III (NS) Civilian of the Year



Aaron K. Lorenz
14th Operations Group

Category II (SUP) Civilian of the Year



Seth Maher
14th Mission Support Group

Category III (SUP) Civilian of the Year



Richard Marra
14th Mission Support Group

Key Spouse of the Year



Amber Thomason
14th Mission Support Group

First Sergeant of the Year



MSgt. Tiona Jones
14th Mission Support Group

Instructor Pilot of the Year



Capt. Matthew Bliley
14th Operations Group

FAIP of the Year



1st Lt. Blaine Wycoff
14th Operations Group

Volunteer of the Year



TSgt. Sean Weygandt
14th Wing Staff Agencies

